REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 2, 3, 20, 21, 23, 25, 26, and 28 are now in form for allowance. With the cancellation above of claims 1 and 4-19, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, and 20-28 remain under consideration in this application.

The Specification stands objected to as failing to disclose an embodiment in which the light scattering material forms the plurality of solid shapes. The Applicants respectfully contend that the specification does provide such support at pages 11-13. The Applicants respectfully contend that the diffusion layer, resulting from the fusion of a transparent layer and a translucent layer, will necessarily incorporate a portion of the light scattering material(s) from the translucent layer. The Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that when the transparent resin and the bulk of the translucent resin comprise the same material, it is the additional light scattering material present in the translucent resin that will comprise the "islands" in the "sea" of the primary resin in the disclosed diffusion layer "sea-islands" structure. As reflected above, however, the Applicants have withdrawn this language from claim 27 and respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as unsupported by the specification. Although, as noted above, the Applicants respectfully contend that the claim was adequately supported, the Applicants submit that the amendment above is sufficient to overcome this rejection. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 21, 22, 24 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. As noted above, claim 21 has been amended to provide an antecedent basis for

"the plurality of solid shapes," claim 24 has been amended to clarify which synthetic resin layer is being referenced, and claim 27 has been amended remove the objectionable language. Claim 22 has not been amended, but the Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendment to claim 21 is sufficient to render claim 22 allowable. The Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that the above amendments to claims 21, 24, and 27 are sufficient to overcome this rejection and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 7 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Erickson. The Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot and request that it be withdrawn.

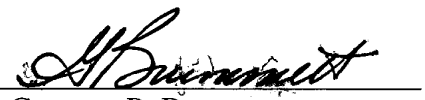
In view of the foregoing, all pending claims are now believed to be in form for allowance. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached Appendix is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made"**.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: 

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Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

21. (Twice Amended) A planar light emitting device comprising:

a transparent body having a transparent synthetic resin layer containing no light scattering material;

a semi-transparent body having a semi-transparent synthetic resin layer containing a light scattering material;

a diffusion layer, the transparent body and the semi-transparent body being joined to form the diffusion layer therebetween, wherein the diffusion layer comprises a sea-islands structure, the islands in the sea-islands structure having a plurality of solid shapes;

at least the transparent body, the semi-transparent body and the diffusion layer defining a planar light emitter; and

a light source disposed at least at one side of the planar light emitter;

wherein the plurality of solid shapes include a plurality of irregular solid shapes.

24. (Twice Amended) The planar light emitting device according to claim 2, wherein [a layer of] the second transparent synthetic resin layer is applied to [the layer of] the first synthetic semi-transparent resin layer to form a second diffusion layer therebetween.

27. (Twice Amended) The planar light emitting device according to claim 23,

wherein the light scattering material contained in the semi-transparent synthetic resin layer includes a first synthetic resin having a first refractive index and a second synthetic resin having a second refractive index[, and

wherein the light scattering material forms the plurality of solid shapes uniformly arranged on the entire diffusion layer].

- END OF APPENDIX -